

The Change from Winter to Spring Plumage in the Male Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*).—I have been much interested in Mr. Chapman's articles on the "spring moult" of the Bobolink (Auk, VII, 1893, p. 120; and X, 1893, p. 311), but after reading them I could not help asking myself two questions: Does the adult male Bobolink always have a spring moult except when caged? If so, how can we explain the fact that *in captivity the same change in plumage may take place absolutely without any sign of moulting?*

As I must leave these questions unanswered, let me add a few words about a pet Bobolink I once owned.

The bird was in the usual black breeding plumage when I first had him, but *during the fall there was a complete moult*, and he became the well known Reed-bird of the South. Always having had the impression that the Bobolink must also moult when changing from the winter to the summer dress, I was very much surprised in this case to find no feathers in the cage at any time during the spring, though I looked carefully for them myself day after day. The change in color, however, went steadily on, beginning with the appearance of a black feather here and there, until, having passed through a kind of intermediate 'pie-bald' stage, my bird looked once more as he did when I first had him the previous summer; except that the black was not quite as deep, though very nearly so, nor was the yellowish white so clear as at first. All at once, before the change was complete, he burst into full song, and kept it up until fall, when he moulted, and was again the yellowish brown bird of the preceding autumn.

There was no doubt about the autumnal change being a *true moult* during this or the preceding fall, as the feathers about the cage and the 'pin-feathers' on the bird fully proved, and the absence of any true moult in spring was shown with equal certainty by the absence of these same proofs.

In the autumn I gave my Bobolink to a friend, who only succeeded in keeping him a few weeks; so this was the last of one of the happiest birds it was ever my good fortune to possess.—JAMES SKILLEN, *Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass.*

*Calcarius lapponicus* in Winter at Palmer, Marquette Co., Mich.—On January 22, 1894, I obtained a male Lapland Longspur. When secured it was feeding on grass seed and oats left by some horses, which had been fed at the south and protected side of a building at the mine. The day was cold and stormy, as had been the day previous. The bird had doubtless been lured north by the preceding week of warm weather, January 14-21. It was alone, no others being seen at the time; nor have I the knowledge of another authentic record of its occurrence in Upper Peninsula, although I have made many inquiries.—OSCAR B. WARREN, *Palmer, Mich.*

Missouri Titlark in Louisiana.—A number of Missouri Titlarks (*Anthus spragueii*) were shot on January 20, 1894, at Avery's Island, Iberia Parish, Louisiana. One of the specimens is in my possession. I hardly think the bird has yet been recorded from Eastern Louisiana. Iberia Parish is at the eastern edge of the Louisiana prairies.—GUSTAVE KOHN, *New Orleans, La.*

The Western Winter Wren in Southern California.—On Wilson's Peak, November 24, 1893, I shot a Western Winter Wren (*Troglodytes hiemalis pacificus*). Its sharp *chip*, coming from a thick growth of bushes at the bottom of a small ravine, revealed its presence. On November 17, there was a heavy gale from the northward, and several inches of snow fell on the peak. November 23 some large patches of snow still lay on the summit, and also below it, on the northern side, some 450 feet or so, where the solitary Wren was found. In Belding's 'Land Birds of the Pacific District' this species is recorded as having been taken both at Fort Tejon, 65 miles northwest of here, and at Saticoy, near Ventura. No other Wrens were noted on the peak during our short stay, but at the base of the range a single *Thryothorus*, probably Vigors's Wren, was seen in the evening dusting itself in the sand under a species of white sage.—R. H. LAWRENCE, *Monrovia, Cal.*

Notes on Some Connecticut Birds.—*Melospiza lincolni*.—This shy Sparrow was not uncommon here from September 21 to October 3, 1893. Eight of these birds were secured by Mr. W. E. Treat.

*Sylvania pusilla*.—The Wilson's Warbler is so seldom seen during the fall migration that the capture of two specimens here September 27, 1893, by Mr. Treat, may be worthy of record.

*Vireo philadelphicus*.—A male of this rare species was taken here September 21, 1893, and is in my cabinet. It was killed among some large willows on an island in the Connecticut River.—JNO. H. SAGE, *Portland, Conn.*

Rare Visitants to the Connecticut River Valley in 1893.—*Rynchops nigra*.—During the prevalence of an unusually severe gale the latter part of August, a Black Skimmer was found in West Springfield, Mass., in an exhausted condition, and taken by hand.

*Dendroica palmarum*.—On the 4th of September, in Windsor, Conn., Leon Holcomb of Springfield captured a young Palm Warbler. He found it feeding on the ground in an old field, in company with American Goldfinches.

*Crymophilus fulcarius*.—Near Chicopee, Mass., on the 30th of September, two young Red Phalaropes were captured from a flock of about a dozen.—ROBERT O. MORRIS, *Springfield, Mass.*